GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:800
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Suggestion of NITI Aayog under MGNREGS
Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NITI Aayog has suggested to the Government to pay 25% of wages under MGNREGA to the workers employed in individual farms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NITI Aayog has also suggested that the poor including BPL people of the country should get an option to choose between money and subsidized food grains under the Public Distribution System;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the suggestions of the NITI Aayog are likely to be implemented in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) & (b): NITI Aayog in a communication to Ministry of Rural Development has suggested that during the peak period of the agriculture season, farmers experience acute shortage of labour. To alleviate the problem, farmers may be allowed to hire the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers with them paying the bulk of wage (say 75%) and MGNREGA covering the remainder.

(c)to(e): It has been mentioned in the Occasional Paper No. 2 of March, 2016 on "Eliminating Poverty: Creating Jobs and Strengthening Social Programs" of NITI Aayog, which is based on the work of the "Task Force on Eliminating Poverty" constituted by the NITI Aayog that the beneficiary may be allowed to choose between cash transfer equivalent to current implicit subsidy or continue subsidized purchases. However, this does not represent the views of either Government of India or NITI Aayog. The Ministry of Rural Development will be guided by the provisions of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005.

******